ANNUAL REPORT

ON

EMIGRATION FROM THE PORT OF CALCUTTA

TO

BRITISH AND FOREIGN COLONIES

FOR

1876-77.

BY

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No. 766, dated Calcutta, the 1st August 1877.

From—Surgeon C. H Joubert, M.B., London, F.R.C.S., Offg. Protector of Emigrants,
To—The Offg. Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

I have the honor to submit for the information of Government the annual report on emigration from the port of Calcutta to the several British and foreign colonies during the official year 1876-77. Dr. Grant, Protector of Emigrants, having left India on two years' furlough in April last, and I having only taken over charge after the close of the year under review, this report will lack the details that could have been given by one in charge of the department during the year 1876-77.

2. *Medical Inspector of Emigrants.*—Surgeon-Major E. J. Gayer held this office till 25th April, from when, till the close of the official year, Surgeon-Major J. G. French held charge.

3. *Office and Establishment.*—No change in, or addition to, the nominal roll of office establishment took place during the year. The amalgamation of the Colonial and Inland Emigration Departments into one office has worked very satisfactorily, although the heavy arrears of former years, when the establishment was entirely inadequate, still hinder the current work. The two separate appointments of Superintendent of Emigration and Protector of Emigrants, held by Dr. Grant for the past eight years, were in October 1876 united into a single appointment under the same name, carrying an increased consolidated pay, at the rate of Rs. 1,200 per mensem. There was a slight reduction in the correspondence for the past year as compared with the three previous years, as will be seen by the following table:—

Number of letters.	1873-74.	1874-75.	1875-76.	1876-77.
Received	2,375	3,084	2,586	2,582
Despatched	2,537	2,001	1,675	1,571
Total ...	4,912	5,085	4,261	4,153

4. *Emigration Act and Rules.*—Act VII of 1871 continued in force throughout the year; but rule 75 of the rules in force at this port was cancelled, and a fresh rule substituted ordering that watches be kept day and night by two coolies in turn, who shall report all breaches of the rules; and that officers of the watch shall take measures to detect smoking between decks, and personally visit the between decks during their watch.

5. *Emigration Agencies.*—The following agencies, six in number, were engaged in the conduct of recruiting operations during the past year:—

Colonies.	Agencies.	Emigration Agent.	Date of approval of appointment.	Situation of depôts.
Mauritius	British ...	Mr. C. Eales	31st July 1863 ...	Bhowanipore, near Tolly's Nulla.
Demerara	Ditto ...	„ H. A. Firth, on leave	19th February 1872 ...	No. 8, Garden Reach.
		„ C. Eales, officiating	24th October 1876 ...	
Natal	Ditto ...	„ H. A. Firth, on leave	31st January 1874 ...	Ditto ditto.
		„ C. Eales, officiating	6th February 1877 ...	
Trinidad	Ditto ...	„ R. W. S. Mitchell	6th June 1874 ...	No. 9, Garden Reach.
Guadeloupe	French ...	„ F. Charriol	10th October 1876 ...	„ 5, Meetapooker Lane, do.
Surinam	Dutch ...	„ E. C. VanCutsem	27th April „ ...	„ 20, Garden Reach.

The Surinam agency is included in the above, having commenced recruiting in February under the terms of a special convention allowing the despatch of 300 coolies during the current year, although no coolies were received into the depôt till after the close of the year under report. During the year Mr. Firth, Agent for the Natal and Demerara Governments, took leave; and Mr. Eales, Agent to the Mauritius Government, officiated in Mr. Firth's place in addition to his own duties. The agent for the French colonies having died suddenly, Mr. F. Charriol was appointed in his place, and this appointment was approved by Government on the 10th October 1876. Mr. VanCutsem continued in charge of the Surinam agency.

6. *Depôts.*—Dr. Grant, in a memorandum left before his departure on furlough, expresses his satisfaction with the cordial co-operation he has received from the above-mentioned gentlemen with regard to carrying out all regulations concerning the internal administration of the several depôts, as well as in detecting and rectifying abuses connected with the recruitment of emigrants for the colonies. Dr. Grant appears to have been perfectly satisfied that the feeding arrangements were good, and that the food supplied to the coolies in depôt was wholesome and well cooked. The sleeping sheds and other buildings were kept in good order, and their cleanliness well maintained under the constant supervision of the agents, who very properly, as a rule, are resident at their several depôts. There appear to have been no complaints from the coolies of a nature demanding notice in this report.

The following table furnishes the number of emigrants accommodated in the depôts during the past year, and the mortality which occurred amongst them, as compared with the previous year:—

Depots.	1875-76.			1876-77.		
	Number admitted into depôts.	Number of deaths.	Percentage of deaths.	Number admitted into depôts.	Number of deaths.	Percentage of deaths.
Demerara	4,465	4	·08	4,746	18	·37
Trinidad	2,014	1	·04	2,160	10	·46
Jamaica	990	10	1·1	.....	.....	.....
Mauritius	929	2	·21	1,274	12	·94
Natal	443	1	·22	796	.....	.....
Guadeloupe	2,285	12	·52	441	.....	.....
Martinque				.....	.....	.....
Total ..	11,126	30	·26	9,417	40	·42

It will be seen that the mortality amongst the emigrants during detention in the various depôts was higher than during the previous year, being ·42 per cent., against ·26 per cent. The increase is due to the occurrence of 18 deaths in the Demerara depôt, 10 in the Trinidad, and 12 in the Mauritius—numbers much in excess of the death-rates at the same depôts in the previous year. (*Note.*—In the printed report for 1875-76 the death-rates at the Trinidad and Demerara depôts are given as ·3 and ·4 respectively. These figures are obviously incorrect, and the percentage of deaths should be ·08 and ·04 respectively.)

There was no fatal epidemic in any of the depôts, and the deaths that occurred were due to the following causes:—

Colonial Depots.	Chest affection.	Cholera.	Fever.	Dysentery.	Diarrhœa.	Other diseases.	Over lead.	Total.
Demerara	4	6	2	2	3	1	.....	18
Trinidad	3	1	2	2	.....	.....	2	10
Mauritius	.....	2	.....	1	4	5	.....	12

When this death-rate of ·42 per cent. is compared with the average duration, 29·2 days, of detention in the Calcutta depôts, it will be seen that the percentage of deaths per annum amounts to 5·28, or 52·8 per thousand—rather a high death-rate for a specially selected class, such as cooly emigrants are. The Mauritius depôt gives the highest death-rate, namely 83·6 per thousand per annum.

Taking the previous year, and disregarding the mortality in the French depôt, concerning the average detention in which no figures were furnished, the average annual mortality in the depôts was only 22·8 per thousand—less than half that of the year under report. It will also be seen from the foregoing table that the numbers admitted into the depôts were 1,709 less than during the previous year.

7. *Detention in depôts.*—The following table shows the period of detention of emigrants in the depôt:—

Depôts.	Maximum	Minimum.	Average.	Remarks.
Mauritius	80	2	41	
Demerara	138	2	22	Owing to syphilis.
Natal	91	1	25	Owing to bronchitis and ophthalmia.
Trinidad	151	3	29	Owing to dysentery.
Guadeloupe	75	2	29	
Average	.....	.....	29·2 days	

The provisions of rule 17, requiring the despatch of emigrants if possible within a month from the date of admission into the depôt, were better carried out than during the previous year; the average duration of detention being 29·2 days, against 32·5 days in 1875-76. The average detention in the Mauritius depôt much exceeded the average of the previous year. The special causes of exceptionally long detention are noted in the column of remarks.

8. *Recruitment.*—The following table shows the number of recruiters' licenses granted in 1876-77 and during the previous two years, together with the number and percentage of cancellations:—

Recruiting Agencies.	Licenses.								
	Granted.			Cancelled.					
				1874-75.		1875-76.		1876-77.	
	1874-75.	1875-76.	1876-77.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number	Percentage.
Mauritius	43	1	15	1	2·32	1	100	1	6·66
Demerara	60	133	139	...	...	9	6·76	5	3·87
Trinidad	52	50	56	1	1·92	4	8	5	8 92
Jamaica	38	25	...	1	2 63	2	8	...	...
Natal	78	47	60	2	2 56	1	2·12	...	..
St. Vincent	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
French colonies	43	70	36	2	4·65	4	5·71	1	2·77
Surinam	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	320	326	306	7	2·18	21	6·44	12	3 92

It will be seen that fewer licenses by 20 were granted during the year, and also that the number cancelled was much less, being 3·92 per cent., against 6·44; the severe measures adopted during the previous year to check irregularities having probably had a deterrent effect upon the recruiters. But I think it is obviously incorrect to compare the relative number of recruiters employed in the different years without reference to the fact that in different years a different number of agencies are working.

However one fact is observable, that with the increased difficulty of obtaining emigrant recruiters no large corresponding increase in the number of recruiters employed has been found necessary by the Emigration Agents. The actual control of the recruiting operations having passed out of the hands of the responsible agents by the increase in the number of irresponsible sub-agents, supervising operations in the districts, it has been found necessary to obtain the orders of Government insisting that these sub-agents shall be licensed men. Till fresh orders are passed on the subject, recognized sub-agents therefore will take out recruiters' licenses, and thus be held responsible by the department for irregularities committed by recruiters under their immediate control. It is to be hoped that by these means the numerous cases of young married and unmarried women and boys who are registered as emigrants and brought down to Calcutta only to be detained and rejected by the Protector of Emigrants or claimed by their relatives will be of less frequent occurrence.

9. *Terms offered by the various British and Foreign Colonies.*—The following table will show that the terms offered have undergone no change.

Colony.	Classification of emigrants.	Period of indenture.	Work.		Wages, minimum rate claimable.	Rations.		Dwelling-house.	Medical care and maintenance during sickness.	Free return passage, when claimable.
			Nature.	Duration.		Prescribed scale.	Period of supply.			
British Guiana ...	Adult males from 15 and upwards. Males from 10 to 15 and females above 10 years of age.	Five years	Cultivation of the soil, and manufacture of the produce.	Six days in the week, holidays excepted, and seven hours in the fields or ten hours in the buildings in each day.	Rs. A. P. Daily— 24 cents = 0 8 0 16 ,, = 0 5 4 Payable weekly.	For adults of and above 15 years of age, at a cost of two annas and eight pies daily:— Rice ... ... 1½ lb Dal ... ... 4 oz. Cocoanut-oil or ghee... 1 ,, Massala... ... ... ¼ ,, Sugar ... ... 2 ,, Salt ... ... ½ ,, For minors of and above 10 and under 15 years of age, half the above quantities at half the cost. For infants under 10 years of age one-third the above quantities free of cost.	From the first date of delivery to any employer until the first day of October then next following.	Free of charge ...	Free of charge.	After ten years' continuous residence in the colony, five of them being under indenture.
Trinidad	Adult males and females from 15 years and upwards.	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Six days in the week, holidays excepted, and nine hours each day.	Daily— 1s. 0½d. = 0 8 4 Payable fortnightly.	For adults from 10 years and upwards:— Rice ... ... 1 lb } Daily. Dal ... ... 4 oz. } Daily. Ghee or cocoanut-oil... 1 ,, } Daily. Sugar ... ... 2 ,, } Daily. For non-adults from 5 to 10 years, half the above scale.	For two years at a cost of 2 annas and 8 pies per ration. Free of charge.	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ditto.
Jamaica	Adult males from 16 years and upwards. Males from 12 to 16 years, and females of any age.	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ditto ...	Daily— 1s. ... = 0 8 0 9d. ... = 0 6 0 Payable monthly.	For adults— Rice ... ... 1½ lb } Daily. Or corn meal ... ... 2 ,, } Daily. Or cooked cassava ... 2 ,, } Daily. Raw ,, ... 5 ,, } Daily. Raw yams or cocoas ... 4 ,, } Daily. Split peas ... ... 8 ,, } Monthly. Salt fish... ... ... 6 ,, } Monthly. Or mutton, beef, or goat's flesh ... ... 8 ,, } Monthly. Ghee ... ... 1 ,, } Monthly. Or sweet or cocoanut oil ... ... 1 pint. } Monthly. Salt ... ... 1 lb } Monthly. Dry pepper or piments 2 oz. } Monthly. Fuel, sufficient.	For the first three months, or, if necessary, for the whole period of indenture at maximum cost of 3s. 6d. weekly.	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ditto.
Mauritius	Males— Adults above 18 years ,, 15 to 18 ,, ,, 12 to 15 ,, Minors above 10 to 12 years. Females— Adults ... ... Male return emigrants above 18 years. Male return emigrants above 14 to 18 years.	Ditto ...	Ditto and domestic service.	Ditto ditto ...	Monthly— 10s. ... = *5 0 0 8s. ... = 4 0 0 6s. ... = 3 0 0 5s. ... = 2 8 0 Daily— 6d. ... = 0 4 0 and rice, or monthly— 6s. ... = 3 0 0 11s. ... = *5 8 0 9s. ... = 4 8 0 Payable monthly.	For adults above 12 years— Rice ... ... 1½ lb } Monthly. Weekly. Pounded maize ... 2 ,, } Monthly. Weekly. Cooked manioc ... 2½ ,, } Monthly. Weekly. Raw ditto ... ... 5 ,, } Monthly. Weekly. Dal ... ... 8 oz. } Monthly. Weekly. Salt fish ... ... 8 ,, } Monthly. Weekly. Ghee or oil ... ... 4 ,, } Monthly. Weekly. Salt ... ... 4 ,, } Monthly. Weekly.	For whole period of indenture.	Ditto ..	Ditto ...	Not provided by the colony.

Natal	Adult males of and above the age of 15 years.	Ditto ...	Cultivation of the soil and manufacture of the produce.	Six days in each week, holidays excepted, and eight hours in each day.	Monthly— 1st year ... 5 0 0 2nd „ ... 5 8 0 3rd „ ... 6 0 0 4th „ ... 6 8 0 5th „ ... 7 0 0	For adults— 1½ lb rice, or for three days in the week, as substitute for rice, 2 lb of pounded maize. Monthly— Dal ... ... 2 lb Salt fish ... ... 2 „ Ghee or oil ... ... 1 „ Salt ... ... 1 „ For non-adults, of the age of one year and upwards, half the above scale.	Ditto ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	After ten years' residence, five of them being under indenture.
	Adult females of and above the age of 15 years.	.....	.....	.....	Half the above rates.					
French Colonies ...	Adult males of 16 years and upwards. Adult females of 14 years and upwards. Males from 11 to 16 years, and females from 11 to 14 years.	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ditto ...	Monthly ... 5 0 0 Ditto ... 4 0 0 Ditto ... 2 0 0 Payable weekly. Also two suits of clothes each year.	Rice, manioc, flour, salt-fish, ghee or oil, salt, &c., in the quantities fixed by Government regulations ... ... } Daily.	Ditto ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	After five years' service under indenture.

* These rates are subject to yearly increments of eight annas.

It would appear, from the continued falling off in the number of persons willing to emigrate to the colonies, that the terms offered are not sufficiently attractive in all cases.

The colony which offers the most advantageous terms appears to be Trinidad; and it will be found that, notwithstanding the falling off in the numbers of intending emigrants during the past two years, Trinidad each year has obtained as many immigrants as the colony required. The Mauritius comes next, but there is a considerable difference between the number required and the number obtained; still the short voyage, the good reputation of the island, as reported by the numerous returned emigrants, the fair wages, and other conditions, make this colony apparently still popular.

Demerara, requiring 12,000 immigrants during the past two years, has obtained but 7,208; Natal, requiring 6,730, has obtained only 1,077 during the two years; Guadeloupe, which obtained the full number required in 1875-76, only succeeded in obtaining one-fourth of her requirements in the year under review.

The free return passage offered after five years to emigrants to the French colonies, no doubt is an attraction which counterbalances the fact that the actual wages offered are smaller than for any other British or Foreign colony.

With reference to the manner in which this condition is carried out, but little information has reached this office. The latest information received relating to the condition of immigrants in the island of Guadeloupe is contained in a report from the British Vice-Consul at Pointe-a-Pitre, Guadeloupe, dated 25th February 1876. From this report it would appear that from the year 1854 up to the date of writing 24,291 adult immigrants had been received into the island: of these 8,972 had died, 396 had absconded, and 1,380 had been repatriated, leaving a balance of 13,543 still in the island. It would appear, however, that since the year 1871 not a sufficient number of time-expired immigrants have presented themselves to lead to the chartering of a vessel (to quote the words of the report). It would also appear that during the year 1875 no less than 1,200 immigrants terminated their engagements; but all renewed them in consequence of advantages granted them by their employers. These advantages appear to be under a fresh engagement a bonus of £2 sterling, and an increase of the monthly wage from 10 to 12 shillings, which increase may be commuted into a sum down of from £4 to £8. Also, if the immigrant renounce his right to repatriation, he is entitled to a further sum equivalent to the price of his passage home. If the immigrant, on the termination of his engagement, does not re-engage, but, under certain conditions, is allowed to reside in the island, he forfeits his right to repatriation. This right is also forfeited by any correctional or criminal conviction during the term of indenture.

The report of the Vice-Consul throws very little light on this as on the other important subjects connected with the condition of the coolies in the island; but although it is not actually so stated, there are apparently considerable difficulties in the way of coolies returning to their native land. Information on this point is needed, in face of the statement that for the past four or five years no immigrants have returned or been able to return. It is worthy of note that while the British Vice-Consul in his report, dated Guadeloupe, 25th February 1876, distinctly asserts that the right to repatriation is forfeited by correctional or criminal condemnation, the Emigration Agent in Calcutta for the French colonies, in a letter dated 8th May 1876, in reply to a question, informed this office that this section, under article 2 of the law passed by the French Government in 1852, relating to immigration into the French colonies, was no longer in force.

The last two reports received relative to the condition of the Indian coolies in the colony of Cayenne are most unsatisfactory. Emigration to this colony was stopped in September 1876, in consequence of these reports.

The following table shows the number of emigrants required by the various colonies during the past two years, and the number of emigrants actually despatched :—

Colonies.	1875-76.			1876-77.			Remarks.
	Number of statute adults required by the colonies.	Number despatched represented as		Number of statute adults required by the colonies.	Number despatched represented as		
		Statute adults	Souls.		Statute adults.	Souls.	
Demerara	6,000	3,540½	3,849	6,000	3,667½	3,993	Owing to the great difficulty in procuring emigrants, it was found impossible to supply the required number during the emigration season.
Trinidad	1,500	1,498½	1,653	1,500	1,507½	1,601	
Jamaica	700	705	767	.....	.....	.....	
Mauritius	798	673	739	1,385	915	1,027	The balance is in course of collection, but the work proceeds slowly owing to the increasing difficulty in procuring coolies.
Natal	4,000	362½	393	2,730	715	761	
Guadeloupe	1,264	1,264½	1,329	1,350	333½	353	
Martinique	498	498½	531	.....	... .	.....	
Total ...	14,760	8,542½	9,251	12,965	7,138½	7,734	

Of the 7,734 emigrants who left this port during the past season, 254 were returned emigrants, who re-emigrated to the different colonies as shown below :—

Colonies.	Number who re-emigrated as labourers.		
Mauritius	95		
Demerara	116	Besides 14 persons paid their own passage.	
Trinidad	23	„ 8	ditto ditto.
Natal	14		
Guadeloupe	6		
Total ...	254		

The number compares favourably with 172 persons who re-emigrated in 1875-76.

Besides the above, 14 persons returned to Demerara and eight to Trinidad as private passengers, paying their own passage money.

10. *Intending emigrants.*—The number of intending emigrants originally registered for the several colonies in the various districts during the past year is for the first time shown in the present report, the figures in the 2nd column being gathered from the reports of the registering officers.

Colonies.	Number originally registered in the various districts as per Magistrates' reports.	Number admitted into the depôts.	Loss between the place of registration and the Calcutta depôt.
Demerara	3,755	4,746	A gain !!
Trinidad	1,800	2,160	„
Mauritius	961	1,274	„
Natal	1,094	796	A loss
Guadeloupe	465	441	„
Total ...	8,075	9,417	

It will be seen from the above statement how impossible it is for this department to supply the information so repeatedly called for by Government whilst the district officers who register the intending emigrants neglect to send early and accurate reports to the Emigration Office of all registrations effected

by them. For instance, into the Demerara depôt were admitted apparently 1,000 more emigrants than were registered for the colony.

The attention of all registering officers should be urgently called to this point, as I have failed to obtain the required information from the Emigration Agents.

Following the history of the emigrants from the time of registration to that of embarkation, the next statement shows the number in the depôts on the 1st April 1876, the number admitted during the year, the losses from all causes, the number embarked, and the balance remaining in the depôts on the 31st March 1877.

Colonies.	Balance for last year.	Number admitted into depôt.	Total.	Number released and rejected.	Number absconded.	Number of deaths.	Number of coolies despatched.	Balance after the close of the year.	Percentage of released and rejected	Percentage of absconded.	Percentage of death.
Mauritius	69	1,274	1,343	97	191	12	1,027	16	7·22	14 22	·89
Natal	10	796	806	40	5	...	761	...	4·96	·62	.
Demerara	101	4,745	4,846	508	214	19	3,992	114	10·48	4·41	·37
Trinidad	55	2,160	2,215	379	91	10	1,601	134	17·11	4·10	·45
Guadeloupe	62	441	503	89	8	...	363	53	17·69	1·59	...
Jamaica	42	...	42	42	...	...		...	...	...	...
	338	9,417	9,755	1,155	509	40	7,734	317	11·84	5 21	·41

It will be seen that the percentage of loss from all causes during detention in the depôts was heavy; and on referring to the statistics of past years the percentage of loss from rejections for 1876-77 will be found much greater than usual, owing to the bad class of coolie recruited.

	1874-75.	1875-76.	1876-77.
Rejected or released from engagement ...	6·6	7·41	11·84
Absconded	5	5·93	5·21
Died	·33	·26	·41

As to the loss from desertion, the remarks made in last year's report apply equally to the year under review. With regard to the large percentage, 14·22, recorded under this head against the Mauritius depôt, it may be stated that intending emigrants are allowed great liberty while awaiting embarkation at this depôt, and this privilege is abused by many apparently.

Also with regard to the 17·11 per cent. of releases and rejections at the Trinidad depôt. None but thoroughly good emigrants are sent to Trinidad, on account of the facility with which labourers are procurable for this colony. All recruits, therefore, who do not fully answer the demands of the agency are released from their engagements and returned to their homes or place of registration.

The death-rate has already been noticed in the paragraph on "depôts."

The rule laying down the proportion of women to men at a minimum of 40 per cent. was better complied with than during the previous year. None, however, of the large deficiency of women amongst the emigrants shipped to Guadeloupe in 1875-76 was made good in 1876-77. The Agent, however, hopes to make good the deficiency during the present year.

Colonies.	Men.	Women.	Proportion.	Deficiency at the close of the previous year.	Deficiency made up during the year.	Deficiency remaining at the close of the year.
Mauritius	591	279	47 20	32	32	None.
Demerara	2,470	1,063	43·03	115	75	40
Trinidad	993	471	46 42	.....	...	.....
Natal	498	196	39 35	... ..	.....	3
Guadeloupe	232	93	40 08	192	.....	192

The emigrants actually despatched to the various colonies were recruited as shown by the following table, which gives the various districts in their relative order of importance as supply-markets:—

Provinces.	Districts.	Number of souls despatched for the colonies.					
		Mauritius.	Demerara.	Trinidad.	Natal.	Guadeloupe.	Total.
North-Western Provinces...	Allahabad, Azimghur, Mirzapore, Benares, Ghazeepore, Goruckpore, Meerut, Cawnpore, Bareilly, Agra, Jhansi, Jounpore.	293	1,530	703	256	103	2,975
Behar	Patna, Gya, Arrah, Sarun, Tirhoot, Chumparun, Monghyr, Bhagulpore, and Furneah.	466	1,111	456	230	203	2,446
Oudh	Lucknow, Seetapore, Sultanpore, Fyzabad, and Roy Bareilly.	31	840	306	203	22	1,304
Bengal ...	Calcutta, 24-Pergunnahs, Howrah, Nuddea, Burdwan, Moorshedabad, Jessore, Pubna, Rungpore, Cooch Behar, Chota Nagpore, Bankoora, Beerbhoom, Midnapore, Sonthal Pergunnahs, Dacca, Mymensingh, Backergunge, and Furreedpore.	109	172	167	17	5	470
Miscellaneous, Madras and Bombay, &c.	Unknown	11	179	53	18	6	269
Central India	Indore, Nagpore, Jubbulpore, Raipore, Rewah, and Gwalior.	7	89	7	3	2	108
Native States . .	Unknown	7	50	5	23	9	94
Punjab and Dependencies .	Delhi, Umballa, Jullunder, Umritsur, Lahore, Peshwar, Ferozepore, Guzerat.	.....	24	13	11	3	51
Orissa	Cuttack, Balasore, and Pooree ...	3	7	10	.....	.....	20
	Total ...	1,027	3,992	1,601	761	353	7,734

11. *Emigrant vessels.*—The subjoined table shows that 18 sailing ships left the port during the past year, carrying an average of 429 emigrants—

Colonies.	Ships left this port in—						Number of souls.	Average number of souls per ship.
	1875-76.			1876-77.				
	Sailing ships.	Steam ships.	Total.	Sailing ships.	Steam ships.	Total.		
Demerara	8	.....	8	8	.....	8	3,992	499
Trinidad	3	.....	3	3	.....	3	1,601	534
Jamaica	2	.....	2	0	.....	0	.....	.....
Mauritius	3	.....	3	4	.....	4	1,027	257
Natal	1	.....	1	2	.....	2	761	380½
French Colonies	4	.....	4	1	.....	1	353	353
Total ...	20	.....	20	18	.....	18	7,734	429½

Detailed information is given below regarding each vessel, and includes amongst other particulars the length of passage and the mortality occurring during each voyage:—

Number.	Name of vessel.	Colonies to which emigrants were conveyed.	Name of Surgeon.	Date of departure.	Date of arrival at destination.	Length of voyage.	Number of souls embarked.	Mortality during the voyage.	Percentage of mortality.
1	"Merchantman"	Natal ...	G. Stewart ...	30th April 1876 ...	20th June 1876 ...	52	377	5	1·32
2	"St. Kilda" ...	Ditto ...	W. C. Penn ...	4th June ,, ...	23rd July ,, ...	49	384	5	1·30
3	"Canada" ...	Mauritius ...	D. M. Renaud ...	13th July ,, ...	15th Sept. ,, ...	64	209	...	.....
4	"Linguist" ...	Demerara ...	J. G. Winstone ...	2nd August ,, ...	20th October ,, ...	78	600	3	50
5	"Foyle" ...	Trinidad ...	W. Holman ...	,, ,, ...	3rd November ,, ...	94	538	11	2·04
6	"Artist" ...	Demerara ...	R. Whitelam ...	26th ,, ,, ...	29th ,, ,, ..	98	521	9	1·72
7	"Jorawur" ...	Trinidad ...	C. Chapman ...	29th ,, ,, ...	29th ,, ,, ...	91	616	17	2·75
8	"Jura" ...	Demerara ...	J. S. Ireland ...	10th October ,, ...	18th January 1877 ..	105	543	10	1·83
9	"Latona" ...	Mauritius ...	L. M. Gregoire ...	20th ,, ,, ...	17th November 1876	27	294	2	68
10	"Syria" ...	Trinidad ...	P. Hughes ...	31st ,, ,, ...	28th January 1877 ..	89	447	...	.....
11	"Ailes" ...	Demerara ...	G. Stewart ...	5th November ,, ...	27th ,, ,, ...	84	495	9	1·81
12	"Neva" ...	Ditto ...	T. Thorp ...	2nd December ,, ...	25th February ,, ...	85	461	4	86
13	"Merchantman"	Mauritius ...	F. Brun ...	22nd ,, ,, ...	21st January ,, ...	30	305	3	99
14	"Pandora" ...	Demerara ...	F. E. West ...	10th January 1877 .	12th April ,, ...	92	496	1	20
15	"Killochan" ...	Guadeloupe ...	L. Ercole ...	15th ,, ,, ...	Not known ...	...	353	...	.....
16	"King Arthur"	Demerara ...	R. Rivers ...	1st February ,, ...	Ditto ...	..	458	...	.....
17	"Rohilla" ...	Ditto ...	J. G. Winstone ...	26th ,, ,, ...	Ditto ...	...	426	.	.....
18	"Allumghier"...	Mauritius ...	Shaik Hossenny ...	27th March ,, ...	Ditto ...	...	219	...	.....

The annual report being submitted this year many months earlier than in previous years, it is impossible to include in it information relating to the

vessels which left this port towards the close of the season, and concerning whose arrival no intelligence has as yet been received.

The death-rate for the vessels whose arrivals have been reported to this office has been low—an average of 1·38 per cent. The vessel showing the highest mortality for the year is the *Jorawur*, on which the death-rate was 2·75. Of the 17 deaths, four were of infants a few days' old, and nine were caused by measles and the sequelæ of that disease. A special report relating to this outbreak was submitted with this office No. 496, of the 6th ultimo. With this exception no epidemic occurred on any emigrant vessel. All ships leaving the port with emigrants were carefully and repeatedly examined, and every arrangement made for the safety and comfort of the emigrants.

12. *Return emigrants.*—The next statement exhibits the number of emigrants who returned from the various colonies, the amount of their acknowledged savings, and the mortality during the return voyage.

Colonies.	Number of ships.	Number of souls.	Average percentage of mortality.		Savings.	
					Aggregate amount.	Average amount.
					Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Mauritius	5	1,326	·98	13	2,05,206 0 0	154 12 1
Demerara	2	809	3·46	30	1,18,683 7 2	136 11 8
Jamaica .	1	247	2·02	5	13,975 10 8	56 2 5
Trinidad .. .	1 and mail str. 1	496	1·85	9	1,83,963 3 10	379 5 6
Natal . ..	1	5	...	.....	None.	. ..
Total ...	11	2,931	1·94	57	5,21,747 5 8	178 0 1

The above average gives no idea of the amounts brought back by some individuals. An emigrant who returned from Trinidad a few weeks ago after 12 years' residence in the island brought with him Rs. 15,000, 140 sovereigns, and a quantity of jewellery. He purposed paying a visit to his relatives in the North-Western Provinces and returning to Trinidad almost immediately.

Detailed information regarding each of the ships bringing back emigrants to India is given below :—

Name of vessel.	Colonies from which emigrants returned.	Name of Surgeon.	Date of departure from colonies.	Date of arrival at Calcutta.	Length of voyage.	Number of souls embarked.	Mortality during the voyage.	Percentage of mortality.
1. "St. Kilda" ...	Demerara ...	W. C. Penn ...	28th Dec. 1875 ...	23rd April 1876 ...	118	390	12	3·07
2 "Canada" ...	Mauritius ...	G. Propier ...	29th April 1876 ...	24th May ,, ...	27	345	2	·57
3 "Chetah" ...	Jamaica ...	W. K. Stephens ...	31st May ,, ...	29th Sept. ,, ...	122	247	5	2·02
4. "Allunghier"...	Mauritius ...	L. M. Gregoire ...	8th June ,, ...	9th July ,, ...	32	285	5	1 75
5. "Latona" ...	Ditto ...	A. Noel ...	1st July ,, ...	27th ,, ,, ...	27	122	1	·81
6. "Rohilla" ...	Demerara ...	L. T. Allard ...	7th Sept. ,, ...	3rd January 1877 ...	119	478	18	3·84
7. "Glenroy" ...	Mauritius ...	F. C Brun ...	29th ,, ,, ...	15th Nov. 1876 ...	48	308	3	·97
8. "Umvati" ...	Natal ...	G. W Bell ...	9th ,, ,, ...	4th Dec. ,, ...	87	5	...	.....
9. "Jumna," & by mail steamer.	Trinidad ...	J. M. Barry ...	28th October ,, ...	24th Feb. 1877 ...	120	494	9	1·89
10. "Canada" ...	Mauritius ...	G. Propier ..	31st ,, ,, ...	23rd Dec. 1876 ...	54	266	2	·75

In no instance, it will be seen, was there an excessive death-rate; and with this should be borne in mind that invalids are often shipped for return to their homes in India, while all on the outward voyage are put on board in sound health.

With regard to returned emigrants, Dr. Grant, before taking furlough, left a note which may well be incorporated with the present report:—

"There is one point on which I cannot help expressing the opinion that it would be advisable for the Colonial Authorities to consider. All pauper emigrants are returned to their homes at the expense of colony from which they are returned; but in some instances, these paupers are not merely poor, but absolutely without the natural means of earning a livelihood. For example, a man arrived here, from Demerara in the *Rohilla* absolutely without his arms; both arms having been lost by accident when employed working at or near

some machinery. This is a case which, I think, deserves special provision being made for it. The case was referred to the colony, and will, I trust, be liberally dealt with, but I think that proper provision should be made *in anticipation* for the support of emigrants who have lost their limbs in the service of their colonial employers.

"Either the coolies themselves or their employers might be required to subscribe to a pension fund for the support of such cases. It is clearly to the interest of the employers to see to this, for (apart from the question of humanity) it is clear that the return to his native village of one such coolie, utterly unprovided for, would go far towards neutralising all the persuasive powers of the most successful recruiters; whereas, if liberally pensioned, the occasional return of such cases would not be prejudicial to the interests of the colonies."

13. *Financial statement.*—I regret that it is impossible to submit with the present report an account of the receipts and charges in connection with the working of the department. The information required for such a statement has to be collected from reports received from all the different places of registration and from the Accountant-General's Office. Such reports are at present most incomplete, very few having been received up to date. A special report will be submitted, however, as soon as the necessary information has been collected.

In conclusion, I have the honor to submit the following returns for the year 1876-77:—

1. Annual return of emigrants despatched to Demerara.
2. Ditto ditto ditto Trinidad.
3. Ditto ditto ditto Natal.
4. Ditto ditto ditto Mauritius.
5. Ditto ditto ditto Guadeloupe.
6. Table exhibiting number of emigrants to and from the West India Colonies.
7. Ditto ditto ditto Mauritius and Natal.

Table exhibiting the number and description of East Indian emigrants who have left Calcutta for Mauritius and Natal during the year 1876-77, *and the numbers returned therefrom during the same period, with the amount of their savings, remittances, &c.*

	1876-77.		
	Mauritius.	Natal.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.
Embarked—			
Men	591	498	1,089
Women	279	196	475
Children—			
Boys	44	30	74
Girls	46	12	58
Infants—			
Boys	24	10	34
Girls	43	15	58
Total number of souls	1,027	761	1,788
Ditto of statute adults ...	915	715	1,630
Returned—			
Men	879	2	881
Women	243	2	245
Children—			
Boys	98	...	98
Girls	78	1	79
Infants—			
Boys	15	...	15
Girls	13	...	13
Total number of souls	1,326	5	1,331
Ditto of statute adults ...	1,219½	4½	1,223½
			Rs.
Amount of savings brought by return emigrants ...			2,05,206

Table exhibiting the number and description of East Indian emigrants who have left Calcutta for the West Indies during the year 1876-77, *and the numbers returned therefrom during the same period, with the amount of their savings, remittances, &c.*

	1876-77.				
	Demerara.	Trinidad.	Jamaica.	Guadeloupe.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Embarked—					
Men	2,470	993	.....	239	3,695
Women	1,063	471	.....	93	1,627
Children—					
Boys	178	44	.....	11	233
Girls	91	43	.....	6	140
Infants—					
Boys	95	23	.....	6	124
Girls	95	27	.....	5	127
Total number of souls	3,992	1,601	.....	35	5,946
Ditto of statute adults	3,667½	1,507½	.....	333½	5,508½
Returned—					
Men	498	271	178	.....	947
Women	199	102	42	.....	343
Children—					
Boys	75	44	14	.....	133
Girls	63	41	11	.....	115
Infants—					
Boys	17	12	1	.....	30
Girls	16	14	1	.....	31
Total number of souls	868	484	247	.....	1,599
Ditto of statute adults	766	415½	232½	.....	1,414
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.
Amount of savings brought by return emigrants	1,16,683 7 2	1,83,982 3 10	13,875 10 8	.....	3,16,541 5 8

Annual Return of Emigrants despatched to Demerara, Trinidad, Natal, Mauritius, and Gaudeloupe during the year 1876-77.

No. 1.—As to Age and Sex.

	Demerara.			Trinidad.			Natal.			Mauritius.			Guadeloupe.			Grand Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 2 years	95	95	190	23	27	50	10	15	25	24	43	67	6	5	11	158	185	343
From 2 to 10	178	91	269	44	43	87	30	13	43	44	46	90	11	6	17	307	199	506
„ 10 to 20	704	289	993	295	88	383	139	53	192	129	87	216	57	21	78	1,324	535	1,859
„ 20 to 30	1,537	685	2,222	617	354	971	289	132	421	295	121	416	168	63	231	2,906	1,355	4,261
„ 30 to 40	215	83	298	74	26	100	70	13	83	108	69	235	6	6	12	530	199	728
„ 40 to 50	14	5	19	6	5	11	1	...	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	23	12	35
Above 50 years	...	1	1	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	1	2	3
Grand Total	2,743	1,249	3,992	1,060	541	1,601	539	222	761	699	368	1,027	249	104	353	5,349	2,486	7,734

No. 2.—As to places whence Emigrants came to Calcutta for Embarkation.

	Demerara.			Trinidad.			Natal.			Mauritius.			Guadeloupe.			Grand Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Orissa	6	1	7	6	4	10	...	...	...	2	1	3	...	...	...	14	6	20
Western Bengal ...	45	47	92	17	51	68	2	4	6	45	36	81	1	...	1	108	140	248
Central ,, ...	37	38	75	27	55	82	1	5	6	10	16	26	4	...	4	79	114	193
Eastern ,, ...	5	...	5	16	1	17	[illegible]	1	5	2	...	2	...	...	[illegible]	27	2	29
Behar	733	378	1,111	313	123	436	160	70	230	286	166	452	136	67	203	1,640	806	2,446
N.-W. Provinces ...	1,057	463	1,520	475	228	703	171	84	255	263	130	393	73	30	103	2,040	935	2,975
Oudh	599	241	840	155	53	208	160	43	203	21	10	31	17	5	22	952	353	1,304
Central India ...	68	21	89	4	3	7	3	...	3	7	...	7	2	...	2	84	24	108
Punjab	23	1	24	13	...	13	8	3	11	...	...	...	3	...	3	47	4	51
Nepal	44	6	50	2	3	5	16	7	23	7	...	7	7	2	9	76	18	94
Mix, Madras and Bombay, &c.	129	53	179	32	20	52	12	6	18	6	5	11	6	...	6	183	84	266
Grand Total ...	2,745	1,249	3,992	1,060	541	1,601	536	225	761	659	368	1,027	249	104	353	5,249	2,485	7,734

No. 3.—As to Caste and Religion.

Brahmins, high caste		473	189	662	183	70	253	84	27	111	101	30	131	47	21	68	887	337	1,224
Hindoos: Agriculturist		739	269	998	269	178	447	170	57	227	163	93	256	68	18	83	1,416	595	2,011
Hindoos: Artisans ...		230	103	333	97	56	153	44	11	55	86	45	131	26	8	34	473	223	696
Hindoos: Low castes ...		933	391	1,324	339	168	507	163	83	246	214	139	353	79	36	115	1,727	817	2,544
Mussulmans		364	293	677	153	89	241	78	45	123	95	61	156	31	21	52	740	509	1,249
Christians		4	4	8	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	6	4	10
Grand Total ...		2,743	1,249	3,992	1,060	541	1,601	536	225	761	659	368	1,027	249	104	353	5,249	2,485	7,734

Memorandum.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1. Hindoos	4,503	1,972	6,475
2. Mussulmans	740	509	1,249
3. Christians	6	4	10
Total ...	5,249	2,485	7,734

C. H. JOUBERT, M.B.,

Offg. Protector of Emigrants.

1st August 1877.

W. H. D'C.—Regr. No. 11560—208—17-8-77.

EMIGRATION.

DARJEELING, THE 5TH SEPTEMBER 1877.

RESOLUTION.

READ—

The Report of the Protector of Emigrants on Emigration to British and Foreign Colonies during the year ending 31st March 1877.

Read again—

The Reports of the two previous years, with the orders of Government thereon.

IN colonial, as in inland, emigration the operations of the past year show a remarkable falling off compared with the results of previous years. The number of emigrants despatched to the colonies was 24,569 in 1873-74, 20,230 in 1874-75, 9,251 in 1875-76, and only 7,734 in 1876-77. The stimulus experienced in the two former years was undoubtedly owing to the scarcity, which was to some extent felt in all the districts from which the great majority of the recruits for transmarine emigration are collected; but, on the other hand, the plentiful harvests of the past two years will not entirely account for the remarkable slackness in colonial emigration which has since supervened. The last annual report of the Superintendent of Emigration shows that Assam is beginning to compete successfully with the colonies in procuring labourers from Behar and the Upper Provinces. Unfortunately, the statistics show that, with increasing demand for labour both in this country and abroad, and competition among recruiters, the supply, though practically unlimited, is becoming less and less accessible, and that greater inducements are year by year becoming necessary to prevail on the people to leave their homes. The Lieutenant-Governor wishes that those interested in either form of emigration would recognize the fact that this is the result of excessive eagerness, not unfrequently accompanied by unscrupulous fraud, on the part of the recruiters, and that the surest way of increasing the available supply of labourers is a rigid enforcement of the checks which the law provides for the control of the subordinate agency.

2. Mr. Eden considers that the decrease in the number of emigrants to the colonies is a matter for regret. He believes that it would be a great gain to the country if the yearly demands of the British colonies at least could be fully met. The greatly improved circumstances of the many labourers who return to their homes with considerable savings, enlarged ideas, and some education, show how great are the advantages to the Indian emigrant of a short residence in the colonies. Dr. Joubert reports that one emigrant recently returned from a stay of twelve years in Trinidad with savings amounting to nearly Rs. 17,000, besides a quantity of valuables. During the past year no less than 254 persons again emigrated, and in addition to these, 14 paid their own return passages to Demerara and 8 to Trinidad. There can be little doubt that, if recruiting operations were generally conducted with ordinary moderation and honesty, the full number of labourers annually required for the British colonies could be procured.

3. The subjoined table shows the most prominent results of the year's operations compared with those of the two previous years :—

	1874-75.	1875-76.	1876-77.
Number of emigrants required by the colonies ...	.....	14,760	12,965
„ „ admitted to the depôts	23,393	11,126	9,417
„ „ despatched to the colonies	20,230	9,251	7,734
„ „ returned from ditto	3,534	2,674	2,931
„ rejected or released from depôts	1,560	826	1,155
Percentage	6·6	7·41	11·84
Number absconded from depôts	1,178	660	5·09
Percentage	5	5·93	5·24
Death-rate per cent. in depôts	·33	·26	·41

4. Altogether 306 licenses were granted during the year to the emigration agents of six colonies, against 326 to six agencies in the previous year. In 1876-77, 12 licenses were cancelled, against 21 in 1875-76. The Lieutenant-Governor regrets, however, that he cannot accept this as evidence of an improvement in the conduct of those employed in collecting emigrants. The nature of their business and the very extensive area over which their operations are conducted have rendered it impossible for the emigration agents to exercise anything like efficient local control over their recruiters. They have been compelled to employ sub-agents to look after their interests in the principal recruiting centres. The existing law contains no provision for the recognition and control of these persons. Nevertheless, their employment is absolutely necessary, and it is by their honesty and vigilance, rather than by the goodwill of the emigration agents, that the operations of the recruiters can be effectually controlled. Hitherto, unfortunately, these qualities have not been exhibited by them, and they have in many instances taken advantage of their irresponsibility under the law to countenance, if not to suggest, malpractices on the part of the recruiters. Mr. Eden has recently decided that, pending the amendment of the law, these sub-agents should be made amenable to control by requiring them formally to take out licenses as recruiters. At the same time, Magistrates have been instructed not to enforce in their respect the section of the law which requires recruiters to wear badges. The Lieutenant-Governor has every reason to believe that if emigration agents were to exert themselves to procure for these posts respectable men who would work honestly under the supervision of the Magistrates, the results would be very different. The want of co-operation on the part of Magistrates, of which the agents so often complain, is attributable to a not unnatural distrust and suspicion of the subordinate agency now employed.

5. The returns for the past year, which have been abstracted above, show that the action of the local sub-agents has been positively mischievous. Out of 9,755 persons received in depôt, including 338 remaining from the previous year, no less than 1,155, or 11·84 per cent., were either rejected by the medical inspector or emigration agents, or released from their engagements by the Protector. These figures bear evidence of great abuses in the process of recruiting. The percentage of rejections and releases ranges from 4·96 in the Natal agency to 17·11 and 17·69 in those of Trinidad and Guadeloupe respectively. In explanation of the high percentage at the Trinidad depôt, Dr. Joubert states that only thoroughly good emigrants are despatched to that colony, as, in consequence of its popularity, labourers are easily procurable for it. This, however, is no excuse for the recruitment of labourers who are certain to be rejected. If the standard is raised so high and the facilities are so great, there should be the less temptation on the part of recruiters to swell the number of their recruits by persons who are not qualified to meet the requirements of the colony. This is a matter which should be fully within the control of the Emigration Agent for Trinidad. The Lieutenant-Governor would like to know if any of the labourers rejected at the Trinidad agency were afterwards accepted at any of the other colonial depôts. No explanation has been offered of the high percentage of rejections and releases among the labourers recruited for Guadeloupe. Mr. Eden considers it highly discreditable to all concerned. His Honor will have occasion to remark further on upon some unsatisfactory features connected with emigration to this French colony. The increasing number of coolies released or rejected at the depôts appears to Mr. Eden to call for the adoption of special measures against the recruiters and sub-agents concerned. He desires that in future the Superintendent will note carefully the name of the recruiter and sub-agent through whose hands each labourer who absconds on the way to Calcutta or from the depôts, or who is rejected or released, has passed. It will be necessary to suspend the licenses of all who are shown to have participated in the recruitment of any large number of labourers who are subsequently found unfit or unwilling to emigrate. A warning to this effect should at once be conveyed to all emigration agents.

6. In the resolution on the report for 1875-76, Sir Richard Temple noticed the neglect of the registering officers in the interior to report to the Superintendent all registrations effected by them. It appears that during the past year there has been no improvement in this respect. The total number of emigrants received in depôts actually exceeded by 1,342 the number shown by the Magistrates' reports to have been originally registered. It is clear that without a knowledge of the number originally recruited, and of the number who abscond on the way to Calcutta, it is impossible for Government to gauge the extent to which improper recruiting is practised It appears that the Emigration Agents are disinclined or unable to give the desired information. It was pointed out in the last resolution that the law requires Magistrates on registering emigrants to submit to the Protector copies of the entries made by them. The attention of all district officers in Bengal will now again be directed to this important matter, and other Governments will be addressed with a view to the issue of similar orders. Meanwhile, the Superintendent will be good enough to compare the statements received with the number of persons admitted to depôt, and to report from what districts those emigrants came regarding whom no reports were received.

7. Of the labourers received in the depôts 5·21 per cent. absconded. This result is chiefly to be attributed to the large number (14·22 per cent.) of desertions among the coolies recruited for Mauritius Dr. Joubert, explains that intending emigrants are allowed great liberty while awaiting embarkation at this depôt, and that the privilege is apparently abused. This explanation is somewhat hesitatingly offered, and the Lieutenant-Governor is unable to accept it as satisfactory. Depôts should not be looked upon as prisons, and under the law every emigrant has full liberty to change his mind up to the time when he enters formally into his engagement. After making allowance for the number of persons who accompany recruiters merely to secure a free journey to Calcutta, the Lieutenant-Governor cannot but recognise in the large number of labourers who absconded from the Mauritius depôt unmistakeable proof that many were improperly recruited.

8. Altogether 40 deaths, or ·42 per cent., occurred among the coolies after admission to depôt. As the average duration of detention in depôt was only 29·2 days, the death-rate amounts to 52·8 per mille per annum, which, as the Superintendent observes, is high for a class supposed to be specially selected. It is not stated whether all the deaths occurred after the labourers had been seen and passed by the medical inspector or not, and it is obviously important that this should be known. Out of the 40, 7 died of "chest affection" and 6 of "other diseases" In the absence of special explanation, it would appear that these persons should not have been passed by the medical officers of the districts in which they were recruited.

9. Dr. Grant, who held the office of Protector throughout the year, expresses himself as perfectly satisfied with the cleanliness of the depôts and with all the arrangements made for the health and comfort of the emigrants. The emigration agents all reside at their depôts, and the Lieutenant-Governor believes that Dr. Grant's remarks on the excellence of their management are quite deserved. Judged by the returns, it would seem that the operations of the Natal agency were most satisfactorily conducted. That depôt shows by far the lowest percentage of rejections and releases and of desertions, and no deaths occurred among the 806 emigrants admitted to it.

10. Emigrants were detained on the average 29·2 days in the depôts, so that the provisions of Rule 17, which requires the despatch of emigrants within one month of admission to depôt, if possible, were in most instances complied with. In the Mauritius agency, however, the average length of detention was 41 days. No explanation is offered on this point. Possibly the excessive number of desertions from this depôt may be attributed in some degree to the length of time passed by the intending emigrants in idleness and comparative confinement and inability to improve their condition.

11. At the beginning of the year the Mauritius, Demerara, and Guadeloupe agencies had still a number of women to despatch in order to make up the required proportion of 40 per cent. The Mauritius agency made up its deficiency in full during the year; that of the Demerara agency was reduced from 115 to 40. No surplus of women was despatched to Guadeloupe, and the deficiency remained at 192 at the close of the year. It has, however, been brought to the Lieutenant-Governor's notice that special efforts have since been made to complete the number required by the rule.

12. The following table shows the number of statute adult emigrants required by the different colonies during the past year, and the number of emigrants actually despatched :—

Colony.	Number of statute adults required.	Number despatched represented as	
		Statute adults.	Souls.
Demerara	6,000	3,667½	3,992
Trinidad	1,500	1,507½	1,601
Mauritius	1,385	915	1,027
Natal	2,730	715	761
Guadeloupe	1,350	333½	353
Total	12,965	7,138½	7,734

13. It will be observed that Jamaica, which has hitherto taken a regular annual supply of labourers, did not require any during the past year. Emigration to Cayenne, or French Guiana, was stopped during the past year, in consequence of the unsatisfactory reports received of the condition of the Indian immigrants in that colony. The prohibition on emigration to Surinam, or Dutch Guiana, was still in force during the year: it has since been partially removed. Trinidad was the only colony which succeeded in obtaining the full number of emigrants required. To Demerara and Mauritius not much more than half of the number which those colonies sought to obtain was despatched. Natal could only procure 715 out of 2,730 indented for. This colony has obtained a number of labourers from Madras, but in Bengal it appears unable to compete with Mauritius and the West Indian Colonies, which are better known to the people. The latest information shows that, since the Commission of 1872 submitted its report, the condition of the Indian labourers in Natal has been most satisfactory. A retired Indian officer has been appointed Protector of Immigrants, and many of the labourers who have worked out their term of indenture have adopted lucrative trades in the neighbourhood of the chief towns. It is probable that, as its excellent climate, comparative proximity to India, and general prosperity are more generally known, Natal will have no difficulty in procuring the labourers it requires. The condition of Indian subjects in Cayenne and Guadeloupe is a matter for grave concern. One of the great inducements to labourers to proceed to those colonies has hitherto been the promise of a free return passage after five years of service. Recent reports, however, show that this advantage is not really enjoyed. On the 25th February 1876 there were 13,543 adult Indian immigrants in Guadeloupe, of whom a large number must have completed their term of indenture and become entitled to return passages. During the year 1875 no less than 1,200 immigrants terminated their engagements. It is stated that all these renewed their engagements, but the Lieutenant-Governor thinks that some special explanation is required to account for the fact that during the past five years no Bengal emigrants have returned to their homes from Guadeloupe. In Cayenne it appears that the coolies only labour 14 days in the month. There must clearly be something wrong in the system of tasks and payment for work, for Mr. Eden believes that no labourer works more willingly than the Indian if it is made his interest to do so. The experience of the other colonies shows that, with liberal rates of wages, the coolies are excellent and industrious labourers. The result of the system pursued in Cayenne is that the immigrant's first indenture for five years, or 1,560 days, cannot expire until he has passed some ten years in the colony,

and that he is as poor at the end of the term as he was at the beginning. But this is not all. It appears that the privilege of a free return passage is withheld after it has been earned. The British Consul reports that throughout the years 1875 and 1876 there were 238 immigrants awaiting an opportunity to return to India, yet that not one was able to leave the colony, though it is evident that the number was sufficient to fill a vessel if one had been chartered for their use. There are at present nearly 4,000 Indian labourers in Cayenne, and it is feared that the condition of all is far from satisfactory. Mr. Eden would be glad to see a specially selected officer deputed to report on the condition of Indian immigrants in all the colonies to which they have been despatched. At present the Indian Governments have no complete information on the subject. The state of things in the French colonies appears to have been unsatisfactory for some years, yet it is even now but imperfectly understood. The affluence of some of the emigrants who return from the British colonies bears testimony to the general prosperity of the class. But the Lieutenant-Governor thinks that we should not be absolutely dependent upon the sometimes meagre reports of officers of the imperial Foreign or Colonial departments for information regarding the welfare of our Indian fellow-subjects in these distant lands.

14. The death-rate on board those vessels whose arrival in the colonies has been reported was not high, averaging only 1·38 per cent. The highest mortality, 2·75 per cent., occurred among the emigrants despatched by the *Jorawur;* more than half the deaths in that instance were caused by measles and their sequelæ. The Lieutenant-Governor has inquired into the case, but it does not appear that any blame attaches to the medical inspector under whose superintendence the emigrants embarked.

15. Altogether 2,931 emigrants returned from the colonies during the year. The average savings of those from Trinidad amounted to Rs. 379-5-6, and the general average was Rs. 178-0-1. In no instance was the death-rate on board the return vessels exceptionally high, though of course many of the passengers were invalids. Dr. Grant's remarks on the subject of pauper emigrants, who are sent back to India after having been incapacitated for earning their livelihood, will be separately considered.

16. Separate orders will also be passed upon the financial statement which Dr. Joubert promises to submit.

17. The Lieutenant-Governor has much pleasure in recording his sense of the care and assiduity with which Dr. Grant has discharged the duties of Protector of Emigrants during the past year.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

HORACE A. COCKERELL,

Offg. Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 1726T.

COPY submitted to the Government of India in the Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

No. 1727T.

COPY forwarded to the Protector of Emigrants for information and guidance.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

COLMAN MACAULAY,

Offg. Junior Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

DARJEELING,
The 23rd September 1877.

Circular No 60.

EXTRACT paragraph 6 forwarded to all Commissioners of Divisions for information and communication to the district officers within their jurisdiction.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

COLMAN MACAULAY,

Offg. Junior Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

DARJEELING,
The 25th September 1877.

B. E.—Reg. No. 12728—26-9-77.